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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 11 January 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the attached Declaration on the Prevention of Genocide against Bosniacs and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17 December 1994.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and the Declaration as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Declaration on the Prevention of Genocide against Bosniacs and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17 December 1994

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina - the revised text - article 314, paragraph 2, as well as in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Parliament of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, article 151, the Parliament of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the plenary session of its Council held on 17 December 1994, adopted the following

DECLARATION

ON THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE AGAINST BOSNIACS AND CROATS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Soon, it will be the one thousandth day since the beginning of the brutal aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an internationally recognized country and a State Member of the United Nations.

The aggression has been launched by the former Yugoslav Army, while the war against our country has been organized and led by Serbia and Montenegro including, besides their own groups, the extreme separatist organization of the Bosnian Serbs.

A month ago, the aggression was extended because even the rebel Serbs from the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia crossed the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina using aircraft, tanks, infantry and all the means available, as they attacked the safe area of Bihać.

This is not just an ordinary war. In Bosnia and Herzegovina the aggressor is waging war against civilians, committing the crime of genocide against Bosniacs and Bosnian Croats.

The Serbian aggressor has publicly proclaimed its main objective, i.e., the extermination of Bosniacs and Bosnian Croats in the territories it occupied. In order to achieve this objective, massive killings were carried out among the unprotected civilians, women, children and elderly people.

The concentration camps, the pictures of which horrified the civilized world, were established. For that reason, the big concentration camps were, in the meantime, replaced by some 150 smaller detention camps where Bosniacs and Croats were getting killed daily in the most atrocious way.

The aggressor has been holding under siege, for nearly two years, the towns of Sarajevo, Gorazde, and Srebrenica, the Bihać region and other places, where there are more than 600,000 Bosniacs and Croats.

People in the besieged areas do not get any food, water, electricity, medicine or other most basic commodities.

Hundreds of humanitarian convoys get either returned or seized by the aggressor despite the presence of the United Nations forces. Surrounded areas are exposed to daily artillery shelling with the main purpose of killing as many Bosniacs and Croats as possible.

The Bosniacs and Croats within the encircled areas are intentionally exposed to such living conditions with the aim of having them exterminated. Here, the crime of genocide, broadcast by television cameras throughout the whole world, is taking place.

Therefore, we invoke the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and ask for the support of all countries, States Members of the United Nations.

For the sake of preventing further genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we expect from all democratic countries the following:

- To have all parliaments express their moral and political condemnation of the genocide against Bosniacs and Bosnian Croats;
- To send to Bosnia and Herzegovina, immediately, independent experts who are to establish facts on genocide and offer help in preventing and punishing the crime of genocide;
- To enable public presentation of information on genocide through the press, radio and television;
- To contribute to creating conditions necessary for the efficient work of the International Tribunal;
- To support the claims for preventing genocide which the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is to forward to the United Nations, in accordance with article 8 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
- To deprive the perpetrators of genocide and their accomplices of any assistance, and to stop all kinds of cooperation with them.

It is your obligation, in compliance with international law, to help the people that are getting killed just because they are Bosniacs or Bosnian Croats. If the crime of genocide is not prevented and punished now, that will mean that genocide, as a way of accomplishing political goals, is being legalized and that the rules of international law are completely defeated.

This Declaration is to be forwarded to the parliaments of all States Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) Miro LAZOVIĆ
President